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CONFIDENTIA CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENC

REPORT

INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY

Korea

DATE OF INFORMATION

1950

HOW

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PUBLISHED

SUBJECT

Daily newspapers

Economic; Sociological

DATE DIST.

Mar 1950

WHERE **PUBLISHED**

Seoul

Korean

NO. OF PAGES

PUBLISHED

LANGUAGE

26, 28 Feb 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO

REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

Newspapers as indicated.

SOVIET VESSELS PLY BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND CHINA

ASSERTS NORTH KOREA SHIPS IRON TO CHINA -- Tong-A Ilbo, 26 Feb 50

The frequent passage of Soviet vessels, heavily laden with cargo, to and from North Korean and Communist-occupied China via eastern coast of South Korea has been noticed lately. Kim Song-sam, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations of the Tachan Republic, said that the number of the Soviet vessels sailing along the eastern coast of South Korea has been increasing, and that all of the ships sailing from Hamgyong Provinces, North Korea, to Communist-occupied China are loaded with cargo, whereas the returning ships are usually empty. Kim asserted that the North Korean Reds are apparently shipping large quantities of iron materials to China.

PEOPLE'S RESENTMENT BRINGS ECONOMIC DISORDER -- Kyong Hyang Sinmun, 26 Feb 50

The economic programs put into effect by the North Korean puppet regime have failed due to relentless mistreatment of the workers, who demonstrate their resentment against the Communists in the form of strikes and sabotage.

It has been reported that recently some railroad workers went on strike, causing a number of locomotives to remain idle for 30 days. Another group of trainmen deliberately refrained from completing their working quotas, as a complaint against profiteers who made undue profits.

Also, it has been reported that unemployment is mounting, the food situation is being aggravated, and the intellectuals are longing for a free economy more and more. Because of the drastic increase of business taxes since September 1947, many merchants have closed their shops and quit business altogether. These merchants hope for an early collapse of the Communist puppet regime

Anti-Communist incidents have been reported frequently among the tax-burdened agrarian populace.

Ignoring all these unhappy economic conditions, the North Korean Labor Party, which is the power behind the puppet regime, has been endeavoring to "militarize" the government, strengthen the People's Committee, and promote friendship with the

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TAEHAN REPUBLIC WELCOMES RED ARMY DESERTERS -- Kyong Hyang Sinmun, 28 Feb 50

A welcome meeting was held at the Seoul City Hall on 26 February for Chang In-chol, Commander of the 51st Division under the Political Security Office of the North Korean puppet gang, and 26 other soldiers who came to the South on 16 February. The meeting was sponsored jointly by the Ministry of National Defense and the Army of the Taehan Republic.

Welcome speeches were delivered by the high officials of the Taehan Republic; then, in turn the deserters emphatically denounced the corrupt regime of North Korea. The meeting ended with the three shouts of "Manse" Banzai led by Chang To-yong, Director of the Information Office of the Taehan Republic Army. After the meeting the deserters marched through the streets surrounded by the welcoming people.

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- 2 -

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